



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park to Assume Management of James A. Garfield and First Ladies National Historic Sites

Brecksville, Ohio - As part of an ongoing reorganization of the National Park Service, the agency announces that James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor and First Ladies National Historic Site in Canton will be placed under the management of the Superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, headquartered in Brecksville, Ohio. This change occurred Sunday, February 8, 2015.


A permanent Site Manager that oversees day-to-day operations will be hired in the near future at James A. Garfield National Historic Site. That position will report directly to Craig Kenkel, Superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley. Details of the transition at First Ladies National Historic Site are still being determined.

“While this assignment is necessary to resolve financial constraints for the two historic sites, we also expect there to be operational benefits and strategic opportunities by aligning all three national park units under Superintendent Kenkel,” said Patricia Trap, Acting Regional Director of the National Park Service’s Midwest Region.

“I look forward to working with the staff and partners at James A. Garfield NHS and First Ladies NHS. My primary objective is to ensure each historic site has an on-site NPS manager and that staff and partners are better supported to achieve the site’s mission,” said Craig Kenkel, Superintendent.

The Garfield home at James A. Garfield National Historic Site remains temporarily closed due to installation of a new geothermal heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The home will re-open to public tours in the spring of 2015.

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James A. Garfield National Historic Site is located at 8095 Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20) in Mentor, Ohio, approximately 25 miles east of Cleveland. The site offers guided tours of the Garfield home, museum exhibits, and an introductory film. The National Park Service completely restored the house in the late 1990s, making it one of the most impressive presidential homes preserved for the public. For more information visit www.nps.gov/jaga or call 440- 255-8722.

The First Ladies NHS consists of two properties; the home of First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley and the seven story 1895 City National Bank Building, which now serves as the Education and Research Center. The site honors the lives and accomplishment of our nation's First Ladies, and is managed by the National Park Service and operated by the National First Ladies' Library. The site offers tours of the changing exhibits at the Education and Research Center, as well as guided tours of the Saxton McKinley House. For more information visit www.nps.gov/fila or call 330-452-0876.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva or call 330-657-2752.

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